[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No.

(*b*) No portion of the *kari* lands is available for assignment.

(*c*) Yes. 25 applications have been received. No portion of the *kari* lands has been assigned to the applicants. The applications have been struck off as they relate to lands reserved for grazing and for the growth of *era* grass necessary for putting up bunds round *puncha* lands.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know if the whole land is required for grazing and for the growth of grass?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Assignment of Vechur Kari to Depressed Classes.

41. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether a portion of the Vechur *kari* lands in the Vaikam taluk will be granted to members of the depressed classes?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 40.

Licenses for Fire-arms.

42. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the applications for licenses for fire-arms for the year 1099, presented to the Division Peishkar, Kottayam, in Karkadakam, 1098, were pending the issue of licenses until the 15th Kanni, 1099?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the present practice which compels applicants for renewal of licenses for fire-arms to deposit their fire-arms in the police station, pending the issue of licenses, is productive of much hardship and loss to the people?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to arrange that, as is done in the neighbouring State of Cochin, fire-arms need be deposited in the police station only in the case of applications for fresh licenses, but that in the case of applications for the renewal of time-expired licenses, fire-arms need not be deposited in the police stations?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Of the 1,189 applications received during Karkadakam, 1098, 976 had been disposed of and 213 were pending on the 15th Kanni, 1099. 167 of the pending applications were also disposed of before the close of Kanni, 1099.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

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